



## Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

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### FINAL MINUTES FOR SUMMARY ACTION TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2005  
9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona

#### **Board Members**

Tim B. Hunter, M.D., Chair  
William R. Martin III, M.D., Vice Chair  
Douglas D. Lee, M.D., Secretary  
Patrick N. Connell, M.D.  
Ronnie R. Cox, Ph.D.  
Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D.  
Paul M. Petelin Sr., M.D.  
Becky Jordan  
Ram R. Krishna, M.D.  
Lorraine L. Mackstaller, M.D.  
Sharon B. Megdal, Ph.D.  
Dona Pardo, Ph.D., R.N.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Tim B. Hunter, M.D. called the meeting to Order at 12:02 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The following Board Members were present: Ronnie R. Cox, Ph.D., Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., Tim B. Hunter, M.D., Becky Jordan, Ram R. Krishna, M.D., Lorraine Mackstaller, M.D., Sharon B. Megdal, Ph.D., Dona Pardo, R.N., Ph.D., The following Board Members were not present: Patrick N. Connell, M.D., Douglas D. Lee, M.D., Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D.

William R. Martin, III, M.D. joined the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one was present for the Call to the Public.

TIME SPECIFIC MATTER					
NO.	CASE NO.	COMPLAINANT v PHYSICIAN		LIC. #	RESOLUTION
1.	MD-04-0333A	AMB	MARY E. GROVES, M.D.	30315	Summary Suspension of License.

Neither Mary Groves, M.D. nor her legal counsel was present for the meeting.

Kathleen Muller, Physician Health Program Manager, presented the case to the Board. Dr. Groves completed an in-patient evaluation for substance abuse at Hazelton Springbrook in accordance with an Interim Order. Springbrook could not substantiate a firm diagnosis of substance abuse, but believed Dr. Groves was impaired by her need to take opiate medications. Dr. Groves misused multiple medications from her family members and has not been able to explain the multiple medications in her urine screens at the time of the arrest that resulting in the Board opening this case.

The Board offered Dr. Groves a Non-Disciplinary Interim Consent for Practice Limitation based on Springbrook's recommendation for limitations. Dr. Groves was unwilling to sign the agreement.

David Greenberg, M.D., Board Addictionologist, said Dr. Groves came to the Board's attention after being arrested for an accident that took place in a school zone on her way to work. At the time of the accident, Dr. Groves was grossly impaired.

Sierra Tucson Treatment Center evaluated Dr. Groves but couldn't be sure she had an on-going substance dependency. Sierra Tucson recommended Dr. Groves abstain from all controlled substances and submit to drug screens for a couple of years.

Dr. Greenberg spoke to Dr. Jim Lee, Medical Director of Springbrook who said there was no doubt the physician was impaired while in their care. Dr. Lee said Dr. Groves had great difficulty in completing a psychometric examination. Additionally, multiple staff recorded she would appear to be in great pain when she knew she was being observed. However, when Dr. Groves was in the parking lot and other areas where she did not think she would be observed, she was at ease and manifested no signs of pain.

Lorraine Mackstaller, M.D. noted the medical records showed that Dr. Grove's primary care physician was prescribing her pain medication and benzodiazepines. She said that although neither treatment facility can confirm substance issue, there is evidence Dr. Groves was practicing medicine under the influence of prescription drugs.

Ram R. Krishna, M.D. said he felt the physician had violated statute because she was impaired at the time of her accident and because there is concern for patient safety.

**MOTION: Ram R. Krishna, M.D. moved to Summarily Suspended the license due to the Opiate dependency making her an imminent danger to the public health and safety.**

**SECONDED: William R. Martin, III, M.D.**

Sharon B. Megdal, Ph.D. said it would be unsafe for the physician to continue practicing, even under a probationary order, because Dr. Groves has an underlying medical condition.

Dr. Martin verified with staff that Dr. Groves and her attorney were aware they were offered a non-disciplinary agreement which, if not accepted, would be replaced with a disciplinary action.

Several of the Board members commented that it was hard to understand why the physician did not sign the non-disciplinary Consent Agreement.

Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D. supported the summary suspension because he believed the doctor was a danger to the public and because there was evidence from Springbrook that the doctor was impaired.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was taken and the following Board Members voted in favor of the motion:**

**Ronnie R. Cox, Ph.D., Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., Tim B. Hunter, M.D., Becky Jordan, Ram R. Krishna, M.D., Lorraine Mackstaller, M.D., William R. Martin, III, M.D., Sharon B. Megdal, Ph.D., Dona Pardo, R.N., Ph.D. The following Board Members were not present: Patrick N. Connell, M.D., Douglas D. Lee, M.D., Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D.**

**VOTE: 9-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain 0-recuse, 3-absent**

**MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



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Timothy C. Miller, J.D., Executive Director